

## 2005 Grassland Reserve Program - New Hampshire Ranking Criteria Rental Agreements

11/29/2004

Applicant's Name
Acres to be enrolled:
Estimated annual rental rate:
Acres of native cover:

Date:
Town & County:
Length of Rental Agreement:

Please refer to the Guidance Document for guidelines on the use of this rating sheet.

Ranking Criteria	Point Assignments				Points
Site adjacent to (frontage on) public road?	Class 1 or 2 road = 60 points	Class 3 or 4 road = 40 points	Class 5 or 6 road = 20 points	Other conditions = 0	
Distance (by roads) to urban area	<1 mile = 60 pts	> 1 and <5 miles = 30 pts	> 5 miles and ≤10 miles = 10pts	Other conditions = 0	
Threat of conversion to cropland: Grassland has prime farmland soils?	≥ 50% prime farmland soils = 60 pts	< 50 & ≥ 25 % prime farmland soils = 40 pts	contains prime farmland soils = 20 pts	contains no prime farmland soils = 0 pts	
Threat of conversion to cropland: Grassland has soils of statewide or local importance?	≥50% soils of statewide or local importance = 40 pts	< 50 & ≥ 25 % soils of statewide or local importance = 20 pts	contains soils of statewide or local importance = 5 pts	contains no soils of statewide or local importance = 0 pts	
Percent population change in town or city from 1990-1999 (see attached file from US Census Bureau)	locate % change and enter this value (positive or negative) in the points column (values range from 61.3 to -11.6)				
Threat of conversion to forestland?	significant, woody species are scattered over ≥10% of land area and/or site not mowed in last 5 years = 60 pts	moderate, woody species scattered over ≥2% of land area and/or site not mowed in last 3 years = 25 pts	slight, isolated scattering of woody species = 5 pts	contains no woody vegetation = 0 pts	
Threat to grassland from non-native invasive species?	widespread problem ≥ 10% of land area = 60 pts	moderate, invasive species identified on site = 25 pts	slight, isolated scattering of invasive species = 5 pts	contains no invasive species = 0 pts	
Is the property adjacent to or near other protected lands** (see notes)?	yes, adjacent to permanent conservation land = 30 pts	yes, adjacent to other conservation land = 20 pts	adjacent to any land under contract for management as grassland = 5 pts	not adjacent to other protected or managed land = 0 pts	
Acreage to be enrolled	≥ 40 acres = 15 pts	< 40 acres & ≥ 25 acres = 8 pts	< 25 acres & ≥ 10 acres = 3 pts	site < 10 acres = <b>STOP</b> site is not eligible for GRP	
Percent of acreage offered in grassland	≥95 % currently is grassland = 40 pts	≥85 & <95% is currently grassland = 20 pts	≥75 & < 85 is currently grassland and/or >95% is planned to be grassland following restoration = 10 pts	Other conditions = 0	

Producer is utilizing a prescribed grazing management system with plan and practices that meet or will meet the FOTG standards	Plan meeting current FOTG standards has been applied yes = 40 pts	Existing operation is expanding or improving toward meeting FOTG standards = 30 points	Existing operation with new plan meeting FOTG standards = 20 pts	Other conditions = 0	
Grazing operation which does not meet FOTG standards	Producer currently grazes but does not have a plan meeting FOTG standards = 15 pts	New grazing operation - producer interested in prescribed grazing management plan = 10 pts	Other conditions = 0		
Is the land actively used for non-grazing hay production?	yes = 10 pts	no = 0 points			
Site is managed to benefit T&E species and use/occurrence of T&E has been documented	endangered species = 20 pts	threatened species = 10 pts	at-risk species = 5 pts	no endangered, threatened or at-risk species = 0 pts	
Site serves as habitat that promotes and enhances plant and animal biodiversity	yes, following a conservation plan to manage site for wildlife benefit = 10 pts	wildlife issues not addressed in conservation plan = 0 pts			
Site requires restoration?	no restoration required = 30 pts	restoration work in progress - funding from another conservation program or producer will pay costs = 15 pts	restoration required - producer has applied for funding from another program = 5 pts	Other conditions = 0	
Estimated operation and maintenance costs per acre ?	pasture = 10 pts	hayland = 2 points	Other conditions = 0		
Partnership contributions that reduce USDA's cost or increase project benefits	Significant partnership input in planning or financing ( $\geq 35\%$ ) = 10 pts	Moderate partnership input in planning or financing ( $< 35\%$ and $\geq 10\%$ ) = 5 pts	Limited partnership input in planning or financing ( $< 10\%$ and $\geq 1\%$ ) = 2 pts	Other conditions = 0	
Length of rental agreement	30 year = 30 pts	20 year = 15 pts	15 year = 10 pts	10 year = 3 pts	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>					<b>0</b>

#### Notes

\*\* Data available from GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer found at

<http://www.granit.sr.unh.edu/>

When creating map, for map display settings under conservation lands select "protection level"

**Other documented conservation lands can also receive points**